

## ...and Where to Get One

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**F**OREST landowners usually have a picture in their mind of what they would eventually like to see their property look like and what they want to receive from their forest. Some want their property to look like a park and want to enjoy recreational activities there. Others may want to attract game to hunt and enjoy. And still others may just want to reap the financial rewards that an intensely managed forest can provide.

The responsibilities of state and local governments may or may not correspond to a landowner's concerns. When you boil it all down, most landowners are interested in their own little part of the world: their "back forty." That's why each landowner needs a forest management plan that specifically addresses their concerns and objectives.

What many landowners may not realize, though, is that a management plan isn't just something they need to get

approved for a forestry cost-share program. **It's a tool that can help turn their "back forty" into that picture in their mind.**

A forest management plan written by an experienced professional forester can be like a road map guiding a landowner from where he or she is now to where he or she wants to be. It will take into consideration objectives and goals for the property and layout a detailed plan to help accomplish these goals. Sometimes goals and objectives change. The passing of time has a way of doing that to us. Goals set at age 55 may be drastically different from goals set at age 25. So management plans need to be reviewed from time to time. Most plans try to lay out activities for five to 10 years, even though the rotation length of a stand can vary from as short as 18 years to as long as 80 years.

## Obtaining a Management Plan

Landowners who have never had a plan may wonder about how to obtain one. Several opportunities are available to landowners from government agencies, forest industry, and consulting foresters.

The Alabama Forestry Commission (AFC) has 93 professional foresters and offices in every county in the state. In fiscal year 1998-99, the Forestry Commission produced 278 TREASURE Forest plans involving 70,000 acres. A TREASURE Forest plan is based on the multiple-use concept and the landowner selects at least two objectives from which to manage their land. The management objective from which a landowner can choose are Timber Production, Wildlife, Recreation, Aesthetics, and Environmental Education.

*Continued on page 21*

tear and remove form

## Do You Need a Written Management Plan for Your Property?

Complete the following form and return to:

Alabama Forestry Commission  
Attn:Tim Albritton  
P.O. Box 302550  
Montgomery, AL 36130

You may also e-mail this information to:  
AlbrittonT@forestry.state.al.us

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

County where your property is located: \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated total acres: \_\_\_\_\_ Estimated forested acres: \_\_\_\_\_

Management objectives for your property (circle the most appropriate answer)

Primary Objective:

- 1) Timber Productivity
- 3) Recreation
- 5) Environmental Education

2) Wildlife Management  
4) Aesthetics

Secondary Objective:

- 1) Timber Productivity
- 3) Recreation
- 5) Environmental Education

2) Wildlife Management  
4) Aesthetics

Continued from page 20

A TREASURE Forest Plan will have property information such as a legal description, stand table and a summary of the landowner's desires for the property. Each plan also has a set of maps such as an area map giving the general location and a property map detailing the boundaries, timber stands, roads, and other special areas. Each stand is described and management recommendations made based on the landowners objectives. Often other natural resource specialists, such as a wildlife biologist, are asked to assist in making specific recommendations.

As might be expected, the demand for TREASURE Forest plans in some counties exceeds the ability of the Alabama Forestry Commission to produce them. After the 1990 Farm Bill was passed, the Management Plan Contract Program (MPCP) was developed. This is where the Alabama Forestry Commission contracts with an approved registered forester to produce a plan for a landowner. The forester is paid a fee by the AFC based on the number of acres owned by the landowner. The AFC targets landowners with larger acreages that might otherwise significantly impact the ability of personnel to accomplish other agency missions.

Another source for landowners to consider is the many consultant foresters working throughout the state. The Association of Consulting Foresters currently has 26 members in Alabama with eight foresters listed in candidate status. The vast majority—approximately 70 percent—of the forestland in Alabama is owned by private non-industrial landowners. It is vitally important that these landowners receive the benefits that a management plan can offer. Society also benefits from well-managed forests, from the thousands of products derived from trees, the clean water forests provide, the wildlife that thrives in them, and the tremendous economic boost all of this brings to Alabama.

If you or someone you know owns forestland in Alabama and could benefit from a TREASURE Forest management plan, contact your local Alabama Forestry Commission office for assistance or complete the adjacent form and return it to the address listed. 📧

## State Forester's Message

Continued from Page 2

*"Next day early in the morning I embarked in a boat and proceeded to Mobile, along the banks of islands (near twenty miles) which lay in the middle of the river, between the Eastern and Western shores of the main: the banks of these low flat rich islands are well cultivated, having on them extensive farms and some good habitations, chiefly the property of French gentlemen, who reside in the city, as being more pleasant and healthy. Leaving these islands, we continued ten or twelve miles between the Eastern main and a chain of low grassy islands, too low and wet for cultivation: then crossed over the head of the bay, and arrived in town in the evening." (He is describing the Mobile Delta.)*

*"The man and his three sons are famous hunters. I was assured, from good authority, that the old gentleman, for his own part, kills three hundred deer annually, besides bears, tygers, and wolves."*

*"The males of the Cherokees, Muscogulges, Siminoles, Chickasaws, Chactaws, and confederate tribes of the Creeks, are tall, erect, and moderately robust; their limbs are well shaped, so as generally to form a perfect human figure; their feature regular, and countenance open, dignified and placid; yet the forehead and brow so formed, as to strike you instantly with heroism and bravery; the eye though rather small, yet active and full of fire; the iris always black, and the nose commonly inclining to the aquiline."*

*"Their countenance and actions exhibit an air of magnanimity, superiority and independence."*

*"Their complexion of a reddish brown of copper colour; their hair long, lank, coarse, and black as a raven, and reflecting like lustre at different exposures to the light."*

*"They marry only for a year's time, and, according to ancient custom, at the expiration of the year they renew the marriage: but there is seldom an instance of their separating after they have children. If it should so happen, the mother takes the children under her own protection, though the father is obliged to contribute towards their maintenance during their minority and the mother's widowhood."*

*"After the feast of the busk is over, and all the grain is ripe, the whole town again assemble, and every man carries off the fruits of his labour, from the part first allotted him, which he deposits in his own granary; which is individually his own. But previous to their carrying off their crops from the field, there is a large crib or granary, erected in the plantation, which is called the king's crib; and to this each family carries and deposits a certain quantity, according to his ability or inclination, or none at all if he so chooses: this in appearance seems a tribute or revenue to the mico; but in fact is designed for another purpose, i.e. that of a public treasury, supplied by a few and voluntary contributions, and to which every citizen has the right of free and equal access, when his own private stores are consumed; to serve as a surplus to fly to for succour; to assist neighbouring towns, whose crops may have failed; accommodate strangers, or travellers."*

*"Next morning entered the Tombigbe, and ascended that fine river."*

*"Opposite this bluff, on the other side of the river, is a district of sawamp or low land, the richest I ever saw, or perhaps any where to be seen: as for the trees I shall forbear to describe them, because it would appear incredible; let it suffice to mention, that the Cypress, Ash, Platanus, Populus Liquidambar, and others, are by far the tallest, straightest, and every way the most enormous that I have seen or heard of. And as a proof of the extraordinary fertility of the soil, the reeds or canes (*Arundo gigantea*) grew here thirty or forty feet high, and as thick as a man's arm, or three or four inches in diameter."*

Excerpts taken from **Travels of William Bartram**, edited by Mark Van Doren, Dover Publications, Macy-Masius, publishers, 1928. 📖